

Weekly Column for July 20, 2006

Another day in the City of Troy, and yet another exciting announcement.

Today we held a wonderful press conference on the Hudson River to announce that the City of Troy has become the first municipality on the Hudson River to provide wireless Internet Access along the river.

Beginning today, the Captain JP cruise ship has been equipped with a wireless antenna, as has a building in the downtown area that will provide wireless access to the area around Riverfront Park.

If you were to travel down to the park, and some of the surrounding areas, you will pick up our wireless signal. Not many others around have this capability yet. At the moment, the first hour of the access is free, though there is an additional charge past the first hour. However, monthly access is priced at the competitive market rate.

To me, this is great news. It is another tool that will help us bring visitors to the City of Troy. Giving people a reason to get off of their boats as they travel up the river is key to future tourism.

Our partners in this venture have been terrific. CornerStone Telephone Company and TechValley Wireless have both provided an amazing amount of service, and dedication to our City. Looking back years from now, the most important aspect of today's announcement will likely not be the free Internet access on the Hudson, but the partnership between the City of Troy and these two companies that allowed downtown Troy to become completely wireless.

That's a Smart City, and that's our goal. Today we took an important step towards realizing our potential, and it is very thrilling.

If you would like read more about this exciting opportunity, I will include the press release below. I hope everyone has a great weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy

**City of Troy, CornerStone, TechValley Wireless To Unveil Wireless
Internet Access Along Hudson River**

(July 20, 2006- TROY)- Mayor Harry J. Tutunjian announced Thursday that the City of Troy has partnered with CornerStone Telephone Company, an integrated communications provider, and TechValley Wireless to deliver fixed wireless internet service to businesses in downtown Troy. CornerStone has installed a high speed fixed

wireless network that will offer a local, more cost efficient and faster alternative to DSL and T1 lines for high-speed Internet access.

The service will officially launch aboard the Captain JP II today, and will become a permanent service available to passengers. The service will also be available to boats docked at the city's riverfront and visitors to Riverfront Park.

"Today is a special day in the City of Troy for two distinct reasons," said Mayor Tutunjian. "This service reinforces our dedication to businesses currently operating in the municipality by bringing them the latest in wireless technology, while distinguishing Troy as an attractive location for companies that may be looking for a place to set up their operations. "

The fixed wireless network offers a higher level of encryption and can be used for wireless wide area networks in and around the City of Troy to deliver simultaneous voice and data in addition to high-speed Internet access. Businesses will be able to receive service almost immediately upon request, versus possibly weeks to install DSL or T1 services

"This wireless network opens up many possibilities for Troy," said Dan Yamin, co-founder and chief executive officer of CornerStone Telephone Company. "Downtown businesses can have immediate access to the network and both businesses and the municipality can use the network to transfer voice and data wirelessly between buildings."

"With the launch of the Captain JP, TechValley Wireless is even more committed to bringing Wi-Fi Technology to Tech Valley," said Brian Epstein, CEO of WiFiFee. "Now visitors to Troy can enjoy access to wireless Internet whether they are on land or boating on the Hudson River."

One of the advantages of the new system is that the City of Troy will be the first community in the area to offer wireless Internet access, sponsored by the municipality, along the Hudson River.

"Similar to the business end of the spectrum, this will significantly raise the profile of the City of Troy as a place that is on the cutting edge," Tutunjian said.